

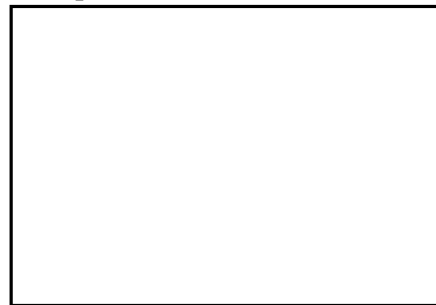
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National Intelligence Daily

Saturday
13 January 1979

State Dept. review completed

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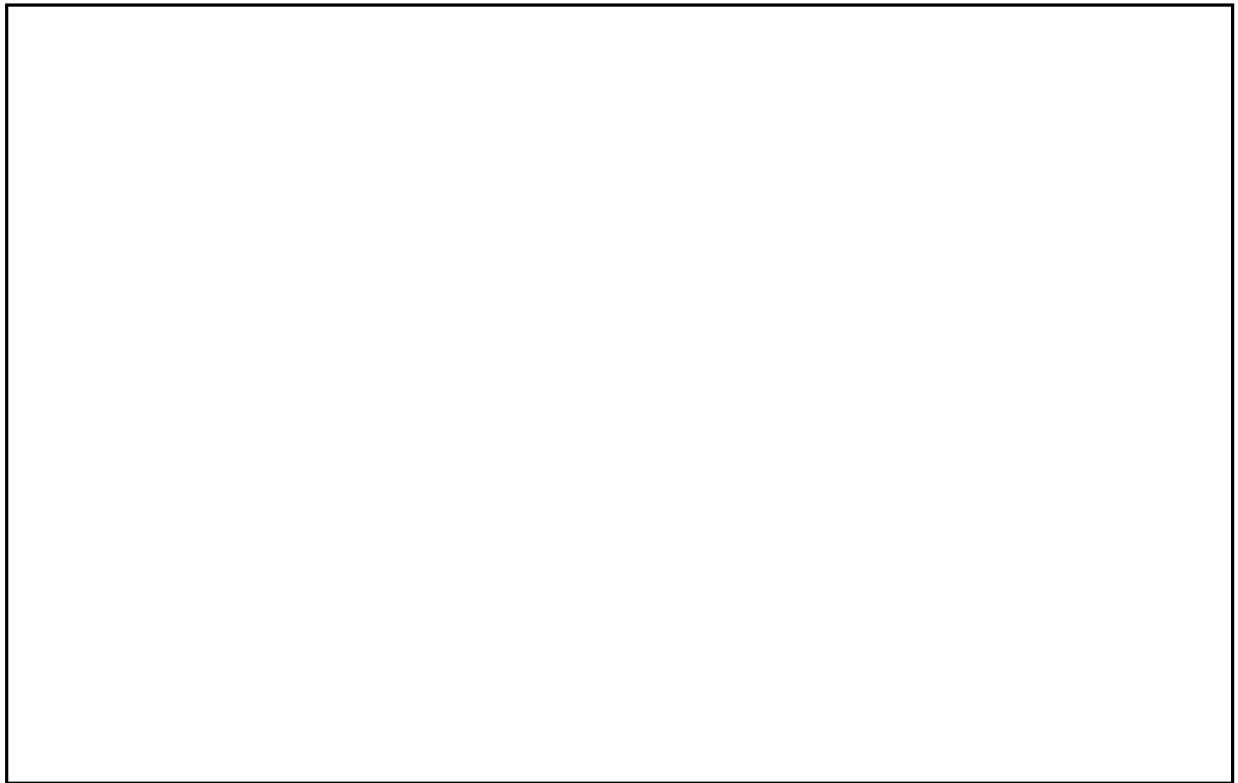
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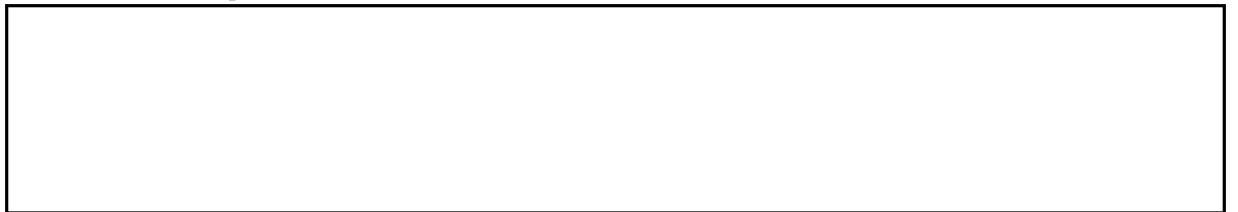
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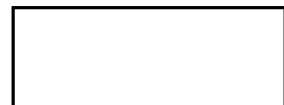
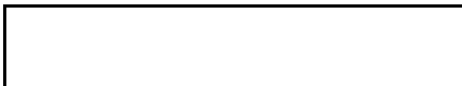
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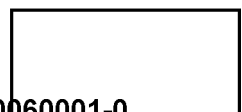
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BANGLADESH: End of Election Boycott

President Zia's efforts to break the opposition's planned boycott of the coming parliamentary election have succeeded. Astute maneuvering by Zia in the past few weeks, including the release of more than 400 political prisoners, persuaded most of the moderates to participate in the election. This effectively isolated the last major holdout--an important faction of the Awami League--and that faction reluctantly announced on Tuesday that it would take part in the election, now set for 18 February. Its participation reduces the likelihood of violence during the polling and will serve Zia's goal of enhancing the legitimacy of the new parliament, which will bring three years of martial law to an end.



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OVERNIGHT REPORTS

(The items in the Overnight Reports section have not been coordinated within the intelligence community. They are prepared overnight by the Office of Current Operations with analyst comment where possible from the production offices of NFAC.)

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USSR-Eastern Europe

In accordance with the Helsinki agreement of 1975, the Soviets notified the US and other Western governments yesterday that they and the Czechoslovaks will hold a joint exercise in Czechoslovakia during the first week in February. The statement said some 26,000 troops from both ground and air force units will take part in the exercise.

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Canada-Mexico

According to press reports, a spokesman for Canadian Energy Minister Gillespie, who began an official visit to Mexico on Wednesday, yesterday said that Mexico has agreed in principle to supply Canada with oil for a five-to 10-year period. The spokesman indicated that Mexico might begin to supply Canada with 15,000 barrels per day by late this year to rise to 100,000 barrels per day by 1981. He suggested 1 May as a possible date for signing the agreement. Canadian negotiating teams reportedly will soon go to Mexico to discuss prospects for supplying Mexico with nuclear and mining technology, farm products, and coal in exchange for the oil. [REDACTED]

Japan-Thailand

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Tokyo's press today alleges that Japan has decided to increase credits to Thailand, but the US Embassy there reports that a ranking Japanese Foreign Ministry official later termed the reports "premature." He said discussions with an advance party preparing for the coming visit of Thai Prime Minister Kriangsak will continue through the weekend as will the review of the level of aid to Thailand. The official said the Foreign Ministry wants to increase aid to Bangkok because of the Vietnamese incursion into Kampuchea and is seeking to convince the Finance Ministry to approve that step. [REDACTED]

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